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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEA EXPANDING ACCESS TO WIND GRANTS TO COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Maryland Energy Administration to expand its Windswept Grant to include community based wind projects.

ANNAPOLIS (April 7, 2014) - The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) announced today that it is expanding its existing Windswept Grant Program to include community-scale projects, namely, those ranging from 100 kilowatts to 1,000 kilowatts. While the current Windswept Grant Program offers Maryland residents, businesses, and non-profits a \$3000 per kilowatt incentive with a \$100,000 grant cap, MEA's new community focused wind program will support community-scale developments by raising that cap to \$1,100,000. Eligible applicants must demonstrate that their project has a community benefit, which can be achieved, for instance, by siting the project at a community owned facility.

MEA is excited to see entities previously unable to deploy wind turbines now have another opportunity to pursue clean, renewable forms of energy, said Abigail Ross Hopper, Director of Maryland Energy Administration. Director Hopper praised the program stating that raising the grant cap for selected wind projects represents a new opportunity for communities to move forward with wind project development in their own backyard while contributing to the achievement of Maryland's renewable energy goals.

Applications will be considered on a competitive basis. Additionally, MEA will retain the original program's requirement of 50% maximum cost-sharing, which restricts grant support to half of the project's net costs. Projects that have already begun construction prior to execution of a Community Windswept Grant Agreement are not eligible for funding under this platform.

Grant applications must be submitted by May 15, 2014. Grant funding is only available for new community-scale wind installations. All projects must complete construction prior to June 15, 2015.

For more information about this initiative, please visit: <http://energy.maryland.gov/windswept/>

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The mission of the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) is to promote affordable, reliable, clean energy. MEA's programs and policies help lower energy bills, fuel the creation of green collar jobs, address environmental and climate impacts, and promote energy independence